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SUNDAY
JANUARY 24, 1954

E. went to church with the Conants and I to the office. There I talked to Bowie about the Schuman plan loan, and on the same subject to Merchant. Foster wrote Monnet a letter last night saying that Jean had missed his opportunity in refusing the U. S. offer of one hundred million dollars, with the possibility of a later negotiation leading to a request by the President to Congress for additional sums. This will strike Jean like an avalanche, so I telephoned Tommy to tell him to get word to Monnet to steel himself.

We lunched at Foster's, in Cecil Lyon's former house. Only the Dulleses, the Bohlens, C. D. Jackson, Bowie, ourselves and, as French guests, the Bidaults, Roland de Margerie, the François-Poncets, and Alexandre Parodi. Lots of gay and good conversation. Roland says [redacted] his ancestors have been, in direct line, French civil servants since the time of Louis XIV; he thinks the only other family with such continuity is Alphand's. François-Poncet is enthralled with his dictionary duties as a member of the French Academy. They publish the dictionary in two volumes every twenty years, and between times have a weekly session for revision. They are now struggling with the letter B and have just terminated a battle over "blanc". The only way they could define it was "white like snow", "milk" and other suggestions having been contemptuously discarded. They are now contending whether blanc de blanc should be - as regards the last blanc - singular or plural. Nice work for the forty immortals.

I hope that Messrs. Bidault and Dulles had a satisfactory private talk after lunch today. Bidault had referred to my conversations with Alphand in Paris and I strongly advised him (as I already had the Secretary) to discuss EDC with Dulles on a completely informal basis, with no one else present.

Tommy telephoned me at the Conant house. Jean Monnet is deeply disturbed over the prospect of what the impending letter from Foster may contain. He now

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wants to send me an aide-mémoire for transmittal to the Secretary to establish a record of having made an application to the U. S. Government for a loan. Strangely enough, in spite of the flood of correspondence and cables on the subject, no such record exists.

The Conants had a dinner tonight to introduce some of the leading Berlin officials to Foster and Janet. It was a pleasant and interesting occasion. Bill Tyler, Brewster Morris and ourselves were the other Americans. The Germans were Dr. and Frau Otto Suhr (he the President of the Berlin House of Representatives), Dr. Schreiber, Governing Mayor of Berlin, and his wife, Dr. Conrad, the Burgomaster, and Frau Conrad, and the Chancellor's personal representative in Berlin whose name I do not recall.

I had a chance to mention briefly to Foster Monnet's concern over the loan, and I now think it best for Jean to come down here and talk directly to Foster, which is agreeable to the latter.

Have finished the piquant recollections of Augustus Hervey, and started tonight on the memoirs of Lord Hervey, edited by Robert Sedgwick from a copy of the original manuscript in the Windsor Castle Archives. It promises well. These Herveys were characters; some one observed in the 18th Century that there were three categories of people - men, women and Herveys.

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